Dennis J. Lackovic

Dennis J. Lackovic was born March 10, 1941. His mother was Anne Ference Lackovic (1911-1993); his father was Ernest Lackovic (1913-1985). He had one older brother, Ernest Lackovic (1936-1982). He grew up in Hudson County, N.J. His father was superintendent of the apartment building at 401 72nd St., North Bergen, N.J., and the family occupied the basement apt. at the corner of 72nd St. and Palisades Ave. Dennis played football and baseball, and graduated Weehawken High School.

In 1958 he went out to visit his brother Ernest who was playing football for the Jayhawks at the University of Kansas. Back in New Jersey he eventually took a job at Prentice Hall Publishing in Englewood Cliffs, N.J. where he met my Mom, Patricia Gaglione. The couple wed on 14 February, 1962 at St. Cecilia's Roman Catholic Church in Englewood, N.J. The first year of their marriage they lived with Dennis' parents in North Bergen, N.J.; the next 2 years they rented a second-floor apt. at a house in Little Ferry, N.J. In 1965 they bought a house in Park Ridge, N.J.

They had: Randolph Alaric Lackovic (born 1963); Christopher James Lackovic (born 1965); Stephen Edward Lackovic (born 1968). Dad at some point began working at Allied Chemical in Elizabeth, N.J., the company where his father worked, and the company where his maternal grandfather had worked (at General Chemical at the Hudson River Works in Edgewater, N.J.). I believe he was a chemical lab analyst; he may have had other position within the company. In the latter half of the 1960s, in order to supplement his income for his new house and growing family, he took a job pumping gas on weeknights and weekends at John's Texaco in Montvale, N.J. Many a time when he would go to pick up his check or something, we would go to the Dairy Queen across the street for an ice cream cone or a sundae. Dad liked his Taylor Ham.

In the 1970s every late August he took the family to vacation in Maine at his sister-in-law's (Margaret Whittle Gaglione) parent's Damariscotta Lake cottage (Whittle's Cove Cottage). Dennis was an avid fisherman and a dedicated deer hunter. He would go every year to his friend's—Fred Swody—Campground in Camptown, Pa. to hunt deer. It was the only time of year he would smoke. He liked to work with wood, making plaques, constructing end tables, and refinishing our old wooden floor, giving it a smooth, polished, reflective finish. Around the mid-1970s he converted our attic so I would have my own bedroom; I was his helper.

Also in the 1970s, my father got into a training program at work where they would pay for his education. He began taking classes at Bergen Community College, and later Fairleigh Dickinson University. In the latter half of the 1970s he also began making business trips across the country to different Allied Chemical facilities.

In 1980 my parents were divorced. He took an apartment in a big old house in Morristown, N.J. that had been sectioned off into apartments. I went to live with him for a few months. Our first full moon was interesting as our neighbors above us were in the habit of going up on the roof and howling at the full moon in the middle of the night. It became a source of amusement when we would recall it in future conversations.

At some point my Dad met Cynthia Gebert, I believe at Allied. They began to see each other, and eventually my Dad moved to Cindy's apt. in Randolph, N.J. The couple would spend time at her parent's place in Point Pleasant, N.J. where the Gebert family would gather at times. Dad bought a boat, The Sum Fun One, which the couple kept at the Point Pleasant place. In 1986 Dennis earned a masters degree in Organizational Psychology at Fairleigh Dickinson University (FDU). On June 7, 1986 Dennis and Cindy were wed at Cokesbury Methodist Church in Lebanon, N.J. The newlyweds bought property in Blairstown, N.J., and began having their dream home built.

Cindy and Dennis were enthusiastic gardeners and filled their Blairstown property with beautiful flower and vegetable gardens. They would enter their plants in competitions at the Warren County Fair. They also would take their beloved dogs to obedience school, and then enter them in local dog shows. In the 2000s Cindy went back to school and became a school nurse--in I think Parsippany, N.J. She loved those kids, and whenever we talked on the phone she would have a cute or amusing story to tell about them. She also would tell me how well Dad took care of the place, taking care of items on her honey do list. When I talked to Dad on the phone, we liked to remember watching the Carol Burnett Show that was on when I was growing up, and Tim Conway played the Old Man, or when Tim Conway would crack-up Harvey Korman during a skit.

At some point Dad began working as an adjunct professor and a mentor at his alma mater FDU. Dennis was also a lifelong jogger beginning with the jogging craze of the 1970s. In the 2000s though, his hip wore down, and he had to have hip replacement surgery in 2010. He then began to walk the track at Blair Academy in the early morning hours, having conversations with the security guard who was a retiree working on a degree in philosophy. In the 2000s-2010s Dad volunteered his time to sit on boards, commissions, or committees for the Warren County Board of County Commissioners. Dad loved to watch college football. One of his favorite TV shows later in life was Last Man Standing (TV Series 2011–2021)

Cindy passed away 12 February 2015 after her battle with multiple sclerosis. He set up a scholarship in memory of Cindy at Blair Academy. He would tell me over the phone about the student it was helping and how impressed he was with her.

In his latter years Dad was helped by his friends Bob and Denise Scairpon who were like family. At some point Dad was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. In 2023, as his health issues became more acute and debilitating, he became a resident of the Bristol Glen assisted living facility in Newton, N.J. Bob and Denise would visit, and bring him things from the store; he still liked his tabasco sauce.

On July 12, 2025, Dennis J. Lackovic passed away due to congenital heart failure and complications from Parkinson's. Bob and Denise were at his side. In the MINUTES OF TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING JULY 16, 2025 for Frelinghuysen, N.J., Frank Desiderio let everyone know that longtime resident Dennis Lackovic had passed away. On Friday, July 18th a memorial was held for D.J. Lackovic at the Bristol Glen assisted living facility. It was attended by about 30-40 people—former neighbors, friends, facility residents and staff, and Bob and Denise.

Dad and Cindy are both loved and missed.

They were good people.

Randy A. Lackovic
R.A.L.
Dennis' son
2025